

PEEK-A-BOO, ICU
A comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D. Steinhoff, 9/28/08

[**Tom Brokaw** is sitting alone on a stage, at a table, facing the audience. On the table are two video cell phones, perched on cell phone stands, facing each other. On one cell phone **McCain** can be seen live, standing at a podium, **Obama** is seen live standing at a podium on the other cell phone. A clear water glass and a water glass pitcher are also on the table.]

Brokaw: Good evening everyone, and welcome to the second presidential debate. Some of you may have noticed that, instead of Senators John McCain and Barrack Obama being present together onstage, there are instead video cell phones on the table, upon which each can be seen, live. You see (clears throat), we noticed at the previous presidential debate that the candidates seemed a little reluctant to speak directly to each other.

Obama: John wouldn't even look at me, Tom.

McCain: I was trying to concentrate.

Brokaw: And so what we've done here, the thing we decided to do...

Obama: I had nothing to do with this decision. Absolutely nobody checked with me first.

McCain (smiling and winking): Uh, nor, uh, me, right Tom?

Brokaw: What we're doing is, we have two video cell phones with each candidate, the video cell phones positioned to face each other. Our hope is that gradually the candidates will feel more comfortable with each other, and later on during the debate perhaps, we can remove the video cell phones and have them face each other directly.

Obama: As you wish. (muttering) Might as well be a radio debate.

McCain: We did quite well before there even was such a thing as television, or cell phones, or.... Whatever you want to do, Tom.

[**Brokaw** pours himself some water, has a sip, then places the water glass in between the two video cell phones.]

Brokaw: My first question is for you, Senator McCain.

Obama: Excuse me, uh, Tom, I'm sorry to interrupt, but, uh, you put your water glass on the table between the two video cell phones. So that, well, now all that I can see is the water glass, basically. I can make out a little bit of movement of colors on the other side of the water glass, but other than that....

McCain: That's perfectly okay with me, Tom, if you want to put your water glass there that's fine, I don't mind a bit.

Obama: I can just sort of make out the color of Senator McCain's clothes now with the water glass there. Is this supposed to be like some amusement park mirror debate? Because, I mean....

Brokaw: Should I move the glass to the left or the right. I'm not sure which way....

McCain: It's fine where it is, Tom. I would prefer that you leave your glass where it is.

Obama: You know, metaphorically, this all sort of reminds me of the way Senator McCain's vice presidential running mate, Sarah Palin, seems to find things to hide behind whenever she's called upon to answer a real question.

McCain: Please, we're just talking about where Tom wants to put his water glass. For goodness sake, he is the debate moderator, isn't he entitled to a glass of water?

Obama: John, is that really the issue? Tom, uh, to the left, Tom. No, that just made it worse.

Brokaw: This way then?

McCain: I'm still waiting for the first question.

Obama: It really shouldn't be so complicated to move a water glass away from two cell phones.

Brokaw: Yes, well, if you recall, in the previous debate, Senator McCain demonstrated a certain reluctance to look directly at you.

McCain: I was just trying to concentrate.

Obama: I see, so then the truth is, Tom, you deliberately placed the water glass there to block our view of each other.

Brokaw: I'm sorry John, I told you he wouldn't go along with the water glass thing.

McCain: I have no idea what you're talking about, Tom.

Obama: It's like I'm looking at an amusement park mirror.

McCain: You've said that already.

Obama: Tom, can I at least ask that you drink some more water out of the glass, I can sort of see his form better when there's less water in the glass.

McCain: Can we just wait until Tom is thirsty before we ask him to drink more water? For goodness sake.

Brokaw: That might be a good question. John, would you say the glass is half full or half empty?

Obama: Why would you ask - Tom, I just want you to drink a little more water. Now look, I've shown I'm ready to compromise on this, even more than I should, quite honestly. I didn't ask you to remove the glass altogether.

Brokaw: John? Half full, half empty. Which would you say?

McCain: I, uh....

Brokaw: Senator McCain, one last time, half-full or half-empty?

McCain: Half full or half empty?

Obama: I just sort of see this white blur. And now I know you're going to try to say that remark is racially motivated, but it's the truth, I....

McCain: Here's what Senator Obama doesn't understand.

Obama: What? What don't I understand?

McCain: Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!

THE END